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TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)
SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Ankara warns Denktas to compromise - Milliyet
Erdogan couldn't convince Denktas - Hurriyet
Denktas, Papadopoulos agree on one point: 'No' - Milliyet
Papadopoulos expected to urge Greek Cypriots to vote 'no' -
Milliyet
Weston: EU should not keep Turkey out - Sabah
UK launches 'Yes' campaign for Cyprus referenda - Aksam
US Democrats: Iraq turning into Vietnam - Milliyet
US hunts for es-Sadr - Sabah
Air raid on Fallujah: 26 killed - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

Erdogan warns Turkish Cypriots against deadlock - Radikal
Papadopoulos is not convinced - Cumhuriyet
Iraqi resistance evolves into war - Zaman
Americans debating new troops in Iraq - Zaman
US pressures, Sadr resists - Radikal
Kennedy: Iraq is Bush's Vietnam - Radikal
Fallujah will determine the fate of Bush - Yeni Safak
Blix: Iraq war worse than Saddam's dictatorship - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Cyprus: Turkish Cypriot leader Denktas told PM Erdogan and FM Gul at a meeting in Ankara on Tuesday that he would work against the Annan Plan. Ankara told Denktas that preserving the status quo in Cyprus would not bring a solution. Denktas was also warned to refrain from siding with Papadopoulos in advocating a 'no' in the referenda. The April 24 referenda process is not reversible, Gul told Denktas. Denktas charged that the Turkish government was too optimistic in its interpretation of the Annan Plan, and warned Ankara not to trust the Greek Cypriots. The Turkish Cypriot leader predicted that Cyprus would become a Greek Cypriot island unless the Turks are given guarantees that the derogations in the Annan Plan will be made part of EU primary law. Today, Erdogan will guarantee to the UN that Turkey will submit the results of the April 24 referendum to the Turkish parliament for approval. The UN-backed peace process for reunification of Cyprus was debated in parliament on Tuesday. FM Gul said that the Turkish Cypriots would be better off in a new, unified state of Cyprus. Gul acknowledged that the plan, if accepted, will bring some financial burden for Turkey. The opposition CHP blamed the government for getting involved in a process that would not solve the Cyprus issue, but would result in the liquidation of the Turkish Cypriot state. The CHP charged that the government has forsaken Cyprus in hopes of getting a date for EU accession talks. The opposition warned that the government may end up with nothing at the end of the process. PM Erdogan said at his party group meeting on Wednesday that those who now oppose the UN Plan had had 30 years to reach a solution in Cyprus and had failed to do so. Erdogan asserted that Turkey's essential conditions have been accepted into the plan. He acknowledged that the plan carried risks, particularly on the issue of EU primary law. But he said that no international agreement could be risk-free. Meanwhile, papers report that US Special Cyprus Coordinator Weston told the ATC meeting in Washington that if Turkey does its part, but progress in Cyprus is stalled due to the rejection of the UN Plan by the Greek Cypriots, Turkey must not be kept waiting outside the EU.

New Turkish offer re QIZ: State Minister Kursad Tuzmen offered to form a US- Turkish Qualified Industrial Zone (QIZ) that will allow only high-technology Turkish products. Tuzmen, in Washington for the annual meeting of the American-Turkish Council (ATC), noted that the US responded positively to the offer, and that preparations for QIZs would begin immediately. 'The US side can contribute the know-how,' Tuzmen said, 'and we can bring the manpower and capital.' Tuzmen argued that such a model could be useful in Turkey's economic development. Dailies reported that Turkey has given up on insisting that Turkish textile products be included in a QIZ.

Kurdish broadcast brings closure for local TV: Turkey's media watchdog Radio and TV High Board (RTUK) has closed ART-TV, a local broadcaster in Diyarbakir, for a period of one month on the grounds that the station aired songs in the Kurdish language. ART-TV managers criticized the decision, saying it was in violation of Turkey's EU harmonization laws.

EDITORIAL OPINION:

- a) Iraq/Shia Unrest
- b) Cyprus

"President Bush Has Lost Control of His Policy"

Semih Idiz observed in the mass appeal-sensational Aksam (4/7): "A keen observation of the Washington scene shows that President Bush is losing significant political ground, and for the first time Republican circles are talking about the possibility of losing the election. The growing tension in Iraq has become a major concern and has led to a serious debate on how best to respond. The debate centers around two arguments. One group supports harsh retaliation, while another group warns about the severe consequences of escalation and urges the administration not increase tensions through harsh reprisals. . The general view in Washington is that the Greater Middle East Initiative has become invalid due to recent developments. The realities of the region make it impossible to apply. In sum, President Bush seems to have lost control of his foreign policy line, and developments in Iraq will be playing more significant role in shaping U.S. policies."

"Settlement or the demise of Cyprus"

Hasan Pulur argued in the mass appeal Milliyet (4/7): "What some people are calling the 'settlement' of the Cyprus issue actually means the demise of Cyprus. This is because of the fact that the Greek Cypriots will join the EU even if they say 'no' in the referendum. As for Turkey, we remain waiting at the gate. Thinking about Cyprus in isolation will not give us the full picture. You should look at the broader ramifications, from Cyprus to the Aegean, and from Armenia to Turkey's southeast. Then we should add the 'Islamic state' concept to this. Secretary Powell - who was also the former US Chief of Staff - referred to Turkey as an Islamic state. If you are naive enough to believe that that was a slip of the tongue, then we have nothing left to talk about."

EDELMAN